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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
| 10/826,632 | 04/16/2004 | G. Glenn Henry | CNTR.2230 | 1329 |
| 23669 7590 10/18/2007 HUFFMAN LAW GROUP, P.C. 1900 MESA AVE. COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80906 | | | EXAMINER ZEE, EDWARD | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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PTO@HUFFMANLAW.NET

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/826,632

Applicant(s)

HENRY ET AL.

Examiner

Edward Zee

Art Unit

2135

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 August 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date See Continuation Sheet.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :5/23/07, 5/31/07, 5/31/07, 6/22/07, 9/11/07.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the amendments filed on August 24th, 2007. Claims 1, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 22 and 26 have been amended, Claims 1-26 are pending and have been considered below.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 05/30/07 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Specification

The amendments filed on August 23rd, 2007 have been considered and is effective at overcoming the previous objections to the specification. Therefore, the previous objections to the specification have been withdrawn.

Claim Objections

3. The amendments filed on August 23rd, 2007 have been considered and is effective at overcoming the previous claim objections. Therefore, the previous claim objections have been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The amendments filed on August 3rd, 2007 have been considered and is effective at overcoming the previous 35 USC § 112 2nd paragraph rejections. Therefore, the previous claim rejections have been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

6. **Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yup et al. (2002/0191784) in view of Dhir et al. (2005/0084076).**

Claim 1: Yup et al. discloses an apparatus for performing cryptographic operations, comprising:

a. a cryptographic instruction, received by a computing device as part of an instruction flow executing on said computing device, wherein said cryptographic instruction prescribes one of the cryptographic operations, and wherein said cryptographic instruction prescribes that a provided cryptographic key be expanded into a corresponding key schedule for employment during execution of said one of the cryptographic operations [page 3, paragraph 0028];

b. keygen logic(*key expansion block*), operatively coupled to said cryptographic instruction, configured to direct said computing device to expand said provided cryptographic key into said corresponding key schedule [page 3, paragraph 0028];

c. and execution logic(*key expansion block*), operatively coupled to said keygen logic, configured to expand said provided cryptographic key into said corresponding key schedule [page 3, paragraph 0028].

However, Yup et al. does not explicitly disclose performing these instructions on a microprocessor based platform.

Nonetheless, Dhir et al. discloses a similar apparatus and further discloses performing cryptographic instructions(*ie. program instructions*) to implement the Advanced Encryption Standard algorithm on a microprocessor based platform(*ie. FPGA*) [page 5, paragraph 0051].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to perform these instructions on a microprocessor based platform or any other platform in order to meet particular design requirements.

Claim 2: Yup et al. and Dhir et al. disclose an apparatus as in claim 1 above and Yup et al. further disclose that said one of the cryptographic operations further comprises an encryption operation, said encryption operation comprising encryption of a plurality of plaintext blocks(*plurality of channels with input means*) to generate a corresponding plurality of ciphertext blocks(*plurality of channels with output means*) [page 2, paragraph 0017].

Claim 3: Yup et al. and Dhir et al. disclose an apparatus as in claim 1 above and Yup et al. further discloses that said one of the cryptographic operations further comprises a decryption operation, said decryption operation comprising decryption of a plurality of ciphertext blocks(*plurality of channels with input means*) to generate a corresponding plurality of plaintext blocks(*plurality of channels with output means*) [page 2, paragraph 0017].

Claim 4: Yup et al. and Dhir et al. disclose an apparatus as in claim 1 above and Yup et al. further discloses that said provided cryptographic key is stored in memory [page 3, paragraph 0028].

Art Unit: 2135

Claim 5: Yup et al. and Dhir et al. disclose an apparatus as in claim 1 above and Yup et al. further discloses that said corresponding key schedule comprises an expanded key schedule according to the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) algorithm [page 2, paragraph 0016].

Claim 6: Yup et al. and Dhir et al. disclose an apparatus as in claim 1 above and Yup et al. further discloses that said keygen logic is configured to interpret a key generation field within a control word which is referenced by said cryptographic instruction [page 2, paragraph 0017].

The examiner notes that the key expansion block is configured to perform the key expansion a predetermined number of times. Therefore, it is inherent to employ some form of a count number(to keep track of the number of key expansions performed) and store this in memory and read it from memory for the purpose of establishing when the predetermined number of times is reached.

Claims 8-9: Yup et al. and Dhir et al. disclose an apparatus as in claim 1 above and Yup et al. further discloses that said cryptographic instruction implicitly references a plurality of registers within said computing device, which include a first register, wherein contents of said first register(*plaintext storage registers*) comprise a first pointer to a first memory address, said first memory address specifying a first location in memory for access of said plurality of input text blocks upon which said one of the cryptographic operations is to be accomplished [page 4, paragraph 0043].

Claim 10: Yup et al. and Dhir et al. disclose an apparatus as in claim 8 above and Yup et al. further discloses that said plurality of registers comprises a first register(*cipher block output storage register*), wherein contents of said first register comprise a pointer to a first memory address, a memory address specifying a first location in memory for storage of a corresponding

Art Unit: 2135

plurality of output text blocks, said corresponding plurality of output text blocks being generated as a result of accomplishing said one of the cryptographic operations upon a plurality of input text blocks [page 4, paragraphs 0043-0044].

Claims 12-13: Yup et al. and Dhir et al. disclose an apparatus as in claim 8 above and Yup et al. further discloses that said plurality of registers comprises a first register, wherein contents of said first register(*cipher key storage register*) comprise a first pointer to a memory address, said first memory address specifying a first location in memory for access of cryptographic key data for use in accomplishing said one of the cryptographic operations, wherein said cryptographic key data comprises said provided cryptographic key [page 4, paragraphs 0043-0044].

Claim 14: Yup et al. and Dhir et al. disclose an apparatus as in claim 8 above and Yup et al. further discloses that said plurality of registers comprises a first register, wherein contents of said first register comprise a first pointer to a fourth memory address, a memory address specifying a location in memory, said location comprising an initialization vector location, contents of said initialization vector location comprising an initialization vector or initialization vector equivalent for use in accomplishing said one of the cryptographic operations [page 3, paragraph 0027]. The examiner notes that Yup et al. discloses operating the apparatus in CBC mode, which implies the use of initialization vectors. Thus, it is inherent for the initialization vectors to be stored in memory.

Claim 15: Yup et al. and Dhir et al. disclose an apparatus as in claim 8 above and Yup et al. further discloses that said plurality of registers comprises a first register, wherein contents of said first register comprise a pointer to a first memory address, said first memory address specifying a first location in memory for access of a control word for use in accomplishing said one of the

Art Unit: 2135

cryptographic operations, wherein said control word prescribes cryptographic parameters for said one of the cryptographic operations, and wherein said control word comprises a keygen field, configured to specify that said provided cryptographic be expanded into said corresponding key schedule be employed during execution of said one of the cryptographic operations [page 2, paragraph 0017]. The examiner notes that the key expansion block is configured to perform the key expansion a predetermined number of times. Therefore, it is inherent to employ some form of a count number(to keep track of the number of key expansions performed) and store this in memory for the purpose of establishing when the predetermined number of times is reached.

Claim 16: Yup et al. and Dhir et al. disclose an apparatus as in claim 1 above and Yup et al. further discloses that said execution logic comprises a cryptography unit, configured execute a plurality of cryptographic rounds on each of said plurality of input text blocks to generate a corresponding each of a plurality of output text blocks, wherein said plurality of cryptographic rounds are prescribed by a control word that is provided to said cryptography unit [page 1, paragraph 0004].

Claim 17: Yup et al. discloses an apparatus for performing cryptographic operations, comprising:

- a. a cryptography unit within a device, configured to execute one of the cryptographic operations responsive to receipt of a cryptographic instruction within an instruction flow that prescribes said one of the cryptographic operations, wherein said cryptographic instruction also prescribes that a cryptographic key be expanded into a corresponding key schedule be employed when executing said one of the cryptographic operations [page 3, paragraph 0028];

Art Unit: 2135

b. and keygen logic(*key expansion block*), operatively coupled to said cryptography unit, configured to direct said device to perform said one of the cryptographic operations and to expand said cryptographic key into said corresponding key schedule [page 3, paragraph 0028].

However, Yup et al. does not explicitly disclose performing these instructions on a microprocessor based platform.

Nonetheless, Dhir et al. discloses a similar apparatus and further discloses performing cryptographic instructions(*ie. program instructions*) to implement the Advanced Encryption Standard algorithm on a microprocessor based platform(*ie. FPGA*) [page 5, paragraph 0051].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to perform these instructions on a microprocessor based platform or any other platform in order to meet particular design requirements.

Claim 18: Yup et al. and Dhir et al. disclose an apparatus as in claim 17 above and Yup et al. further discloses that said cryptographic key is stored in memory [page 3, paragraph 0028].

Claim 19: Yup et al. and Dhir et al. disclose an apparatus as in claim 17 above and Yup et al. further discloses that said corresponding key schedule comprises an expanded key schedule according to the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) algorithm [page 2, paragraph 0016].

Claim 20: Yup et al. and Dhir et al. disclose an apparatus as in claim 17 above and Yup et al. further discloses that said keygen logic is configured to interpret a key generation field within a control word which is referenced by said cryptographic instruction. The examiner notes that the key expansion block is configured to perform the key expansion a predetermined number of times. Therefore, it is inherent to employ some form of a count number(to keep track of the

Art Unit: 2135

number of key expansions performed) and store this in memory and read it from memory for the purpose of establishing when the predetermined number of times is reached.

Claim 22: Yup et al. discloses a method for performing cryptographic operations in a device, the method comprising receiving a cryptographic instruction that prescribes expansion of a cryptographic key into a corresponding key schedule for employment during execution of one of a plurality of cryptographic operations and expanding the cryptographic key into the corresponding key schedule [page 3, paragraph 0028].

However, Yup et al. does not explicitly disclose performing these instructions on a microprocessor based platform.

Nonetheless, Dhir et al. discloses a similar method and further discloses performing cryptographic instructions(*ie. program instructions*) to implement the Advanced Encryption Standard algorithm on a microprocessor based platform(*ie. FPGA*) [page 5, paragraph 0051]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to perform these instructions on a microprocessor based platform or any other platform in order to meet particular design requirements.

Claim 23 Yup et al. and Dhir et al. disclose a method as in claim 22 above and Yup et al. further discloses that said receiving comprises via a field within a control word that is referenced by the cryptographic instruction, specifying expansion of the cryptographic key into the corresponding key schedule [page 2, paragraph 0017]. The examiner notes that the key expansion block is configured to perform the key expansion a predetermined number of times. Therefore, it is inherent to employ some form of a count number(to keep track of the number of key expansions

Art Unit: 2135

performed) and store this in memory and read it from memory for the purpose of establishing when the predetermined number of times is reached.

Claim 24: Yup et al. and Dhir et al. disclose a method as in claim 22 above and Yup et al. further discloses that said expanding comprises loading the cryptographic key from memory [page 3, paragraph 0028]. The examiner notes that the cryptographic key will be inherently loaded from memory if it is stored in memory.

Claim 25: Yup et al. and Dhir et al. disclose a method as in claim 22 above and Yup et al. further discloses that the corresponding key schedule comprises an expanded key schedule according to the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) algorithm [page 2, paragraph 0016].

Claims 7, 21 and 26: Yup et al. and Dhir et al. disclose an apparatus as in claims 1, 17 and 22 above, but neither explicitly disclose that said cryptographic instruction is prescribed according to the x86 instruction format. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to create the instructions in x86 format or any other format. One would have been motivated to do so in order to conform to the type of platform selected for implementation of the encryption/decryption device.

Claim 11: Yup et al. and Dhir et al. disclose an apparatus as in claim 8 above, but neither explicitly disclose that said plurality of registers comprises a first register, wherein contents of said first register indicate a number of text blocks(*channels*) within a plurality of input text blocks(*plurality of channels*) [page 2, paragraph 0016]. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to store the number of blocks being encrypted or decrypted. One would have been motivated to do so in order recognize when the entire encryption or decryption process is complete.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed on August 24th, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding Claim 1: The Applicant argues that Yup et al. does not disclose cryptographic instructions. However, the Examiner respectfully disagrees and submits that while the exact term "cryptographic instructions" is not disclosed, Yup et al. does in fact teach cryptographic instructions(*ie. finite state machine controllers which controls the operation of the remaining portions of the circuit*) [page 3, paragraph 0025].

Furthermore, the Applicant argues that Yup et al. does not disclose cryptographic instructions received by a microprocessor. However, the Examiner submits that this is moot in view of the new ground of rejection.

Additionally, the Applicant argues that Yup et al. does not disclose keygen logic coupled to a cryptographic instruction, configured to expand a provided cryptographic key into a corresponding key schedule. However, the Examiner respectfully disagrees and submits that Yup et al. does disclose this feature(*ie. under control of its respective FSM, each system channel transmits the stored cipher key to a key expansion block, the key expansion block then generates round keys used for each AES round, these round keys can be viewed as the "key schedule"*) [page 3, paragraph 0028].

Regarding Claim 17: The Applicant's remarks regarding this claim has been discussed in Claim 1.

Art Unit: 2135

Regarding Claim 22: The Applicant's remarks regarding this claim have been discussed in Claims 1 and 17 above.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward Zee whose telephone number is (571) 270-1686. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 9:00AM-5:00PM EST.

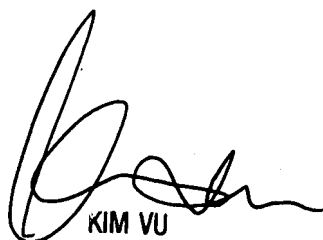
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y. Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2135

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

EZ

October 4, 2007



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